

2014  
UTAH BOARD OF OIL, GAS AND MINING  
EARTH DAY AWARDS

Nomination Form

**Nominee Information**

Company Name: Kevin Rasmussen / Rasmussen Excavation, LLC  
Address: 650 East 200 South  
City, State, Zip: Salina UT 84654  
Contact Person: Kevin Rasmussen  
Phone 435-201-1699  
Site Name: Saturday Night Mine  
Location: Box Elder

**Activity and Category (Please check one activity and one category)**

**Activity**

- ~~Oil and Gas~~
- Minerals
- ~~Coal~~

**Category**

- ~~Environmental improvement to an active mine site, drilling or recovery site, or field~~
- ~~Outstanding results following applications of innovative environmental technology~~
- Outstanding final reclamation or site restoration
- ~~Best practices~~
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated By**

Name: Lynn Kunzler  
Address: DOGM, 1594 W. No. Temple  
City, State, Zip: Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
Phone (801) 535-5310

**Nomination Summary (attach additional sheets, photos, etc., as necessary):**

Attached

Return no later than January 31, 2014 to: Earth Day Awards, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, P.O. Box 145801. Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801. Phone (801) 538-5324 Fax (801) 359-3940. Nominations may also be submitted electronically, email to [jimspringer@utah.gov](mailto:jimspringer@utah.gov)

## **Earth Day Nomination Rasmussen Excavation**

### **Project Descriptions:**

#### **Saturday Night Mine:**

**This was a small gold/silver mine located on the northern end of the Pilot Mountains in Northwestern Utah (Box Elder County) Access was through Nevada on existing jeep trail from Tacoma NV. The operation proposed to open three old adits and clean up old waste dumps on the mountain below each adit. Surface disturbance consisted of approximately ½ mile of new access roads and development of 2 small pads below the adits and dumps.**

**After the surface disturbance was created, the operator filed bankruptcy and refused to reclaim the site, the Division requested the surety be forfeited and then contracted with Rasmussen to reclaim the site.**

**As with most small mining operations, the Division does not have detailed reclamation plans. During a site visit on November 1, 2012 with potential contractors, instructions were given detailing the standards to which the site needed to be reclaimed and requesting the bidders to develop acceptable reclamation plans and bids to reclaim the site.**

**Rasmussen came in with the low bid, and based on past positive experiences in reclamation for the minerals program, their bid was accepted.**

**Reclamation consisted of closing the three adits, regrading the pads and access roads, and removing misc. debris from the site, and preparing the site to be seeded.**

**Work began on November 27, 2012 and was finished the next day (November 28<sup>th</sup>). This was just over ½ the time expected for the project. Using a tracked excavator, access was made to the adits where material from the dumps was used to backfill and close them. Excess material in the dumps was used to backfill the cuts on the pads. This made it possible to regrade the pads and roads to approximate original contour. Large rocks and dead and down trees were placed on the pads and recontoured road to discourage use by off-road vehicles and ATV's. The road was also scarified and left in a roughened condition. The area was then seeded with a seed mix designed for the area and to enhance wildlife habitat. Seeding was completed the next day, and Mother Nature cooperated with the first major winter storm the next day.**

**The site was visited in June of 2013. The site was considered stable, and a variety of vegetation was observed growing on the reclaimed slopes.**

**Not only did Rasmussen do an outstanding job in reclaiming this site (for which they are being nominated), they were able to completely reclaim the old dumps which were not part of the original scope, but also by using additional resources, were able to complete the job early enough so that the area could be seeded before bad weather came. They were also able to complete the work within the bid amount, and for less than the amount of the forfeited surety. This will allow the Division to monitor the site for the next couple of years and do additional work if needed (unusual for sites that the surety was forfeited on).**



**Photo 1: Dump #1 and access road prior to reclamation (upper pad)**



**Photo 2: Access roads to upper and lower pads**





**Photo 3: One of the three adits that was closed**



**Photo 4: Backfilling Adit #2**





**Photo 5: Reclaiming Dump #1**



**Photo 6: Reclaiming upper access road**





**Photo 7: Reclaiming lower access road**



**Photo 8: Reclaimed lower road, pad and Dumps #2 and #3**





**Photo 9: Reclaimed access road**



**Photo 10: Broadcast seeding regraded areas**





**Photo 11: Seedling establishment in spring following seeding**



**Photo 12: Seedling establishment in spring following seeding.**